



**Signature Report**

**June 20, 2007**

**Ordinance 15803**

**Proposed No.** 2007-0256.1

**Sponsors** Phillips

1           AN ORDINANCE relating to fire safety regulations in  
2           King County; adopting, amending and supplementing the  
3           International Fire Code; amending Ordinance 2097, Section  
4           1, as amended, and K.C.C. 17.04.010, Ordinance 12560,  
5           Section 159, as amended, and K.C.C. 17.04.350, Ordinance  
6           12560, Section 165, as amended, and K.C.C. 17.04.380,  
7           Ordinance 14111, Section 201, as amended, and K.C.C.  
8           17.04.430, Ordinance 14111, Section 210, as amended, and  
9           K.C.C. 17.04.510, Ordinance 12560, Section 174, as  
10          amended, and K.C.C. 17.04.560, Ordinance 8726, Section 1,  
11          as amended, and K.C.C. 17.04.630, Ordinance 15828,  
12          Section 2, as amended, and K.C.C. 17.08.010, Ordinance  
13          5828, Section 5, as amended, and K.C.C. 17.08.040,  
14          Ordinance 5828, Section 8, as amended, and K.C.C.  
15          17.08.070 and Ordinance 5828, Section 10, as amended, and  
16          K.C.C. 17.08.090 and adding new sections to K.C.C.  
17          chapter 17.04.

18  
19        SECTION 1. Ordinance 2097, Section 1, as amended, and K.C.C. 17.04.010 are  
20 each hereby amended to read as follows:

21        **Adoption.** The International Fire Code ((2003)) 2006 Edition, as published by  
22 the International Code Council, as amended in chapter((s 51-44 and 51-45)) 51-54 WAC,  
23 effective July 1, ((2004)) 2007, together with amendments, additions, and deletions  
24 adopted in this chapter by reference, together with King County modifications are  
25 adopted as the Fire Code of King County, and referred to in this chapter as "this code."  
26 Administrative rules may be adopted in accordance with K.C.C. chapter 2.98 to further  
27 clarify and implement these code requirements. The King County modifications shall be  
28 codified in this chapter.

29        SECTION 2. Ordinance 12560, Section 159, as amended, and K.C.C. 17.04.350  
30 are each hereby amended to read as follows:

31        **Definitions - Fire detection system.** Section 202 of the International Fire Code  
32 is supplemented with the following:

33        **Definitions - Fire detection system (IFC 202).** "Fire detection system" means  
34 a heat and/or smoke detection system monitored by a central and/or remote station  
35 conforming to the ((2003)) current edition of the International Fire Code as adopted by  
36 the Washington State Building Code Council and/or the Fire Marshal or his/her designee.

37        SECTION 3. Ordinance 12560, Section 165, as amended, and K.C.C. 17.04.380  
38 are each hereby amended to read as follows:

39        **Fire apparatus access roads - Specifications - Surface.** Section 503.2.3 of the  
40 International Fire Code is not adopted and the following is substituted:

41           **Surface (IFC 503.2.3).** Fire apparatus access roads shall be designed and  
42 maintained to support the imposed loads of 25 tons, or as required by Fire Marshal and  
43 shall be provided with a surface so as to provide all-weather driving capabilities  
44 ~~((which))~~ that comply with ~~((Ordinance 11187,))~~ K.C.C. chapter 14.42, King County  
45 Road Standards ~~((Chapter 14))~~.

46           SECTION 4. Ordinance 14111, Section 201, as amended, and K.C.C. 17.04.430  
47 are each hereby amended to read as follows:

48           **Access to building openings and roofs - Required access.** Section 504.1, of the  
49 International Fire Code is not adopted and the following is substituted:

50           **Required access (IFC 504.1).** Exterior doors and openings required by this code  
51 or the Building Code shall be maintained readily accessible for emergency access by the  
52 fire department.

53           An approved access walkway leading from fire apparatus access roads to exterior  
54 openings required by this code or the Building Code shall be provided when required by  
55 the chief.

56           All rescue windows required for Group R Occupancies, except for detached one  
57 and two family dwellings, shall be accessible by a 35 foot ground extension ladder placed  
58 so that the inclination of such ladder does not exceed 70 degrees. Ladders shall be  
59 located within the property lines.

60           SECTION 5. Ordinance 14111, Section 210, as amended, and K.C.C. 17.04.510  
61 are each hereby amended to read as follows:

62           **General - Marking of fire-protection equipment and fire hydrants.** Section  
63 901 of the International Fire Code is supplemented with the following:

**Marking of fire-protection equipment and fire hydrants (IFC ((901.9))**

**901.10).** Fire-protection equipment and fire hydrants shall be clearly identified in an approved manner to prevent obstruction by parking and other obstructions.

1. All fire department connections shall have a sign complying with the International Fire Code or as approved by the Fire Marshal. The sign shall specify what type of water-based fire protection system it serves and building areas served.

2. All main control valves and sectional valves for water-based fire protection system shall have a sign specifying what the valves control.

3. All sprinklers and standpipe risers shall have signs indicating the type of water-based fire protection system it is.

NEW SECTION. SECTION 6. There is hereby added to K.C.C. chapter 17.04 a new section to read as follows:

**Automatic sprinkler systems – Group E.** Section 903.2.2 of the International Fire Code is not adopted and the following is substituted:

**Automatic sprinkler systems – Group E (IFC 903.2.2).** An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided for Group E occupancies.

**Exceptions.**

1. Portable school classrooms, provided the aggregate area of any cluster or portion of a cluster of portable school classrooms does not exceed 5,000 square feet (1465m<sup>2</sup>) and clusters of portable school classrooms shall be separated as required in Chapter 5 of the building code.

2. Group E Occupancies with an occupant load of 50 or less, not including daycare facilities that provide care for more than 12 children 2 ½ years of age or less.

87            SECTION 7. Ordinance 12560, Section 174, as amended, and K.C.C. 17.04.560  
88 are each hereby amended to read as follows:

89            **Automatic sprinkler systems - Where required - Residential units and**  
90 **accessory structures built under the IRC.** Section 903.2.10 of the International Fire  
91 Code is supplemented with the following:

92            **Residential units and accessory structures built under the IRC (IFC**  
93 **903.2.10.4).** An automatic sprinkler system shall be installed in structures built under the  
94 International Residential Code (IRC):

- 95            1. Exceeding 2,500 square feet gross floor area (including attached garages)  
96 without adequate fire flow except as cited in K.C.C. 17.08.030;
- 97            2. Without approved fire department access as defined in the King County road  
98 standards ~~((of King County Ordinance 11187 (Article 9, section 902)))~~ and IFC 503, as  
99 amended; or
- 100            3. If 2,000 gallons per minute or more fire flow is required or where the total  
101 floor area included within the surrounding exterior walls on all floor levels including  
102 basements exceeds 10,000 square feet. For townhouses, each unit is considered a  
103 separate building.

104            **EXCEPTIONS:** Attached decks, exterior porches and carports open on two  
105 sides.

- 106            4. Where special hazards or unusual conditions exists in addition to the normal  
107 hazard of the space due to the design, size, volume or use of the space, the Fire Marshal  
108 is authorized to require additional safeguards suitable for the protection of the hazard or  
109 condition involved. Additional safeguards can consist of automatic fire alarm system,

automatic sprinkler or water spray system, standpipe and hose, fixed or portable fire extinguishers, or other special fire-extinguishing systems. Where such systems are provided, they shall be designed and installed in accordance with the International Fire Code.

NEW SECTION. SECTION 8. There is hereby added to K.C.C. chapter 17.04 a new section to read as follows:

**Fire alarm and detection systems – Group E.** Section 907.2.3 of the International Fire Code not adopted and the following is substituted:

**Fire alarm and detection systems – Group E (IFC 907.2.3).** A manual fire alarm system shall be installed in Group E occupancies. When automatic sprinkler systems or smoke detectors are installed, such systems or detectors shall be connected to the building fire alarm system.

**EXCEPTIONS:**

1. Group E occupancies providing infant daycare for children 2 ½ years or less of age for 12 or fewer and all other Group E occupancies with an occupant load of less than 50.

2. Manual fire alarm boxes are not required in Group E occupancies where all of the following apply:

2.1. Interior corridors are protected by smoke detectors with alarm verification.

2.2. Auditoriums, cafeterias, gymnasiums and the like are protected by heat detectors or other approved detection devices.

2.3. Shops and laboratories involving dusts or vapors are protected by heat detectors or other approved detection devices.

2.4. Off-premises monitoring is provided.

2.5. The capability to activate the evacuation signal from a central point is provided.

2.6. In buildings where normally occupied spaces are provided with a two-way communication system between such spaces and a constantly attended receiving station from where a general evacuation alarm can be sounded, except in locations specifically designated by the fire code official.

3. Manual fire alarm boxes shall not be required in Group E occupancies where the building is equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system, the notification appliances will activate on sprinkler water flow and manual activation is provided from a normally occupied location.

SECTION 9. Ordinance 8726, Section 1, as amended, and K.C.C. 17.04.630 are each hereby amended to read as follows:

**Outdoor storage of containers and portable tanks - Location on property.**

Section 3404.4.2 of the International Fire Code is not adopted and the following is substituted:

**Location on property.** Outdoor ~~((S))~~ storage of ~~((flammable and combustible))~~ liquids in ~~((closed))~~ containers and portable tanks ~~((outside of buildings))~~ shall be in accordance with ~~((Section 3403 and sections 3404.4.1 through 3404.4.8. Capacity limits for containers and portable tanks shall be in accordance with Section 3404.3))~~ Table 3404.4.2. Storage of liquids near buildings located on the same property shall be in accordance with this section.

155           **EXCEPTION:** Outdoor storage of flammable liquids in excess of ten gallons is  
156 not permitted on property used for single family, duplex and townhouse dwellings.

157           SECTION 10. Ordinance 15828, Section 2, as amended, and K.C.C. 17.08.010 are  
158 each hereby amended to read as follows:

159           **Definitions.**

160           A. Unless otherwise provided in this section, the definitions in the International  
161 Fire Code, as adopted in K.C.C. 17.04.010, and in the rules and regulations of the state  
162 board of health regarding public water systems, chapter 346-290 WAC (~~((248-54-560))~~),  
163 shall apply to this chapter.

164           B. For the purposes of this chapter, "fire department" means the fire authority  
165 normally responsible for fire suppression in a specified area.

166           C. For the purposes of this chapter, "water flow" means the minimum quantity of  
167 water required for domestic use or fire fighting, whichever is higher, at a specified  
168 building, development or site, expressed in continuous gallons per minute at twenty  
169 pounds per square inch residual pressure for a designated duration of time.

170           D. For the purposes of this chapter, "fire marshal" means the King County fire  
171 marshal or his or her designated representative.

172           E. For the purposes of this chapter, "water main" means piping used to deliver  
173 water to any fire hydrants or to one or more individual service connections.

174           SECTION 11. Ordinance 5828, Section 5, as amended, and K.C.C. 17.08.040 are  
175 each hereby amended to read as follows:

176           **Water main requirements.**



A. All new required water mains subject to this chapter that serve fire hydrants shall be a minimum of eight inches inside diameter for dead end mains and six inches inside diameter for circulating mains. Hydrant leads less than fifty feet in length may be six inches in diameter.

B. All new required water mains subject to this chapter shall have fire hydrants installed to conform to the requirements of this chapter.

C. All new required water mains subject to this chapter shall meet applicable engineering and health standards adopted by the state of Washington or the water purveyor, including chapters ((248-54 and 248-57)) 246-290 and 246-293 WAC.

SECTION 12. Ordinance 5828, Section 8, as amended, and K.C.C. 17.08.070 are each hereby amended to read as follows:

**Minimum water flow requirements.**

A. The department shall adopt rules and regulations based upon the Guide for Determination of Required Fire Flow, 1974 Edition, published by the Insurance Service Office, establishing criteria for determination of water flow requirements sufficient to provide reasonable fire protection.

B. In no event, shall the water flow required for any use be less than that required by chapters ((248-54 and 248-57)) 246-290 and 246-293 WAC.

SECTION 13. Ordinance 5828, Section 10, as amended, and K.C.C. 17.08.090 are each hereby amended to read as follows:

**Variances.**

A. The fire marshal shall have the authority to approve deviations from the standards established under this chapter when it is shown that:

200           1. Strict compliance would require unreasonable fire hydrant locations, fire flow  
201 requirements or water main sizes; and

202           2. The variance would not unreasonably affect adequate fire protection to the  
203 area or structures served.

204           B. The fire marshal may approve variances, except as provided in subsection C.  
205 of this section for connections to single family residences served by existing water  
206 system that have fire hydrants and fire flow of at least five hundred gallons per minute if  
207 the variance would not unreasonably affect fire protection and only if the purveyor's  
208 approved comprehensive plan includes a method for increasing fire flow to current  
209 standards.

210           C. The fire marshal shall not approve any variance which would result in a  
211 violation of chapters ((~~248-54 and 248-57~~)) 246-290 and 246-293 WAC without prior  
212 approval of the state Department of Social and Health Services.

213           SECTION 14. Severability. If any provision of this ordinance or its application  
214 to any person or circumstance is held invalid the remainder of the ordinance or the

215 application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

216 SECTION 15. **Effective date.** This ordinance takes effect July 1, 2007.

217

Ordinance 15803 was introduced on 4/23/2007 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 5/29/2007, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Mr. Gossett, Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Phillips and Mr. Constantine

No: 0

Excused: 1 - Ms. Hague

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:

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Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 7th day of June, 2007.

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Ron Sims, County Executive

**Attachments**      None